

REMARKS

Pursuant to the above-noted Office Action, the drawings have been objected to. Claims 1-7, 17-19, 21 and 23 were objected to for containing an informality. Claims 1-5 and 14-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) given Hack et al. (U.S. 2003/0109286) ("Hack"). Claims 6 and 8-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) given Hack in view of Ikeda et al. (U.S. 2003/0222334) ("Ikeda"). Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) given Hack in view of Ikeda and further in view of Heady et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,215,655) ("Heady"). The applicant respectfully traverses these rejections and requests reconsideration.

The drawings were objected to as FIG. 7 did not include reference character 72. A corrected drawing sheet is submitted with this response. This corrected drawing sheet presents FIG. 7 inclusive with reference numeral 72. This amended replacement drawing sheet includes all of the figures as appeared on the immediate prior version of the sheet and further includes the label "replacement sheet" in the page header. The applicant respectfully submits that the drawings are now in suitable condition to support allowance.

Claims 1-7, 17-19, 21, and 23 were objected to as containing the informality "and" as precedes the express "further comprising." The Examiner requested that the word "and" be deleted. Pursuant to this amendment and response, this request has been met. The applicant respectfully submits that these claims are now in suitable condition to support examination and allowance.

Claims 1-5 and 14-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) given Hack. Relevant to this response, claim 7 was rejected as being obvious given Hack in view of Ikeda and further in view of Heady.

Claim 1 has been amended to specify inclusion of a flexible substrate, and to further specify that the flexible active display and the flexible active transducer are not only proximally disposed with respect to one another but are also supported by this flexible substrate. Furthermore, as amended, claim 1 now provides for an acoustic dampener that is operably coupled between the flexible active display and the flexible audio transducer.

Hack discloses a flexible active display and what appears to be a flexible audio transducer, but makes no teaching or suggestion that an acoustic dampener be provided

between these elements. The same may be said of Ikeda. The Examiner cites Heady for the proposition that a dampener can be provided between varying substrates. Although Heady does disclose use of an acoustic dampener in conjunction with a speaker, there is nothing in any of the three references to suggest that an acoustic dampener be utilized as between a flexible display and a flexible audio transducer, and particularly when those two such elements are supported by a common flexible substrate. The absence of any such teaching or suggestion therefore removes any motivation for one skilled in the art to make such a combination. The applicant therefore respectfully submits that claim 1 as amended is neither anticipated by the references of record nor rendered obvious by any combination thereof.

Independent claims 20 and 25 have been similarly amended. The applicant therefore respectfully submits that the arguments set forth above with respect to claim 1 is applicable to claims 20 and 25 as well. The applicant respectfully submits that claims 20 and 25 may be passed to allowance.

Pursuant to this amendment, claims 2 and 7 are cancelled and are no longer presented for consideration.

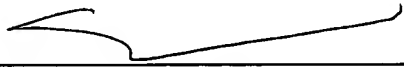
Also pursuant to this amendment, new dependent claim 30 is presented. This claim depends from claim 1 and specifies that the described apparatus comprise a plurality of flexible audio transducers which are proximally disposed with respect to the flexible active display, and further provides that at least two of the flexible audio transducers comprise speakers. The prior art references of record fail to make any such disclosure or suggestion. It may further be observed that Hack likely teaches in an opposite direction, as Hack, while disclosing use of two speakers, specifies that one such speaker be on a housing while the other speaker is on a flexible substrate. The applicant respectfully submits that claim 30 introduces patentable subject matter in and of itself and may be allowed for that reason as well.

The remaining claims are ultimately dependent upon one of the independent claims discussed above. The applicant therefore respectfully submits that these claims are in suitable condition to support allowance.

Application No. 10/714,233
Amendment dated November 11, 2004
Reply to Office Action of August 11, 2004

There being no other objections to or rejections of the claims, the applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 3-6, and 8-30 may be passed to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Steven G. Parmelee
Registration No. 28,790

Date: November 11, 2004

FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY
Suite 1600
120 South LaSalle
Chicago, Illinois 60603-3406
Telephone: (312) 577-7000
Facsimile: (312) 577-7007

Appendix

Application No. 10/714,233
Amendment dated November 11, 2004
Reply to Office Action of August 11, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The drawings were objected to as FIG. 7 did not include reference character 72. 'A corrected drawing sheet is submitted with this response. This corrected drawing sheet presents FIG. 7 inclusive with reference numeral 72.